Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1 to 10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method for <u>securely</u> determining a position of an object moving along a known course<u>, with respect to a distance run by the moving object</u>, comprising steps of:

determining an absolute position of the object with a first confidence interval;

determining a relative position of the object with a second confidence interval;

~~determining~~ <u>selecting</u> a smaller confidence interval ~~of~~ <u>among</u> the first and second confidence intervals <u>when the object is moving along the course, with respect to the distance run by the moving object;</u>

<u>determining the location and/or positioning of the object using the relative position while the second confidence interval is the smaller interval;</u> and

<u>determining the location and/or position of the object using the absolute position while the first confidence interval is the smaller confidence interval.</u>

~~determining the position of the object using the absolute or relative position corresponding to the smaller confidence interval.~~

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the object is a vehicle.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 12 wherein the vehicle is a train.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the step of determining the absolute position includes a railway-safe positioning method involving a digital mapping of possible trajectories and at least one satellite communication receiver.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 14 wherein the at least one satellite communication receiver is a GNSS receiver.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the step of determining a relative position includes detecting the presence of a beacon and integrating a speed of the object with reference to a location of the beacon.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 16 wherein the speed is calculated via a GNSS Doppler signal.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the first and second confidence intervals determine the position of the object with an error probability ~~in the order of 10-9~~ less than 10^{-9}.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 18 wherein the error probability is in the order of 10^{-12}.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method as recited in claim 11 wherein the first confidence interval for the absolute position is in the order of 50 m.

Claims 21 to 26 (canceled).

Claim 27 (currently amended): A location device for determining a position of an object moving along a known course with respect to a distance run by the moving object comprising:

an absolute position determining system yielding a first confidence interval and having access to a digital mapping of possible trajectories and at least one satellite communication receiver;

a relative position determining system yielding a second confidence interval and detecting a presence of beacons placed along the course; ~~and~~

means for selecting, when the object is moving along the course, a smaller confidence interval among the first and second confidence intervals with respect to the distance run by the moving object; [[,]] and

means for determining the position of the object ~~determined according to the method as recited in claim 11~~ based on an output from one of the absolute position determining system and the relative position determining system, selected based upon having the smaller confidence interval.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The location device as recited in claim 27 wherein the satellite communication receiver is a GNSS receiver.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The location device as recited in claim 27 wherein the absolute position device includes means to access the digital mapping of possible trajectories.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The location device as recited in claim 27 wherein the relative position determining system includes means to detect the presence of beacons placed along the course.